

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 1966

SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS CLASSMATES & FRIENDS OF THE GHS CLASS OF 1966!

School has started again, and things almost seem back to normal within our cities, towns, and country. It does seem funny how so much still revolves around school for us – even though public school seems like a long, long time ago. Yet, we also have gained a new appreciation for how “young” our parents may have still felt when they were nearing 60 years old. Time shows little mercy, but having and seeing and sharing with friends from those “good ole days” does seem to keep us in a better frame of mind at times. I hope that your experience with our class in these later years does offer some “good” feelings at times. I also hope you have maintained some close relationships with some of those classmates over the years. I know that there are many who enrich my life each and every day. If you are not already doing so - share with your classmates – you’ll find it is rewarding!

I have recently been in contact Carol Smith-Strange. Carol has been one we’ve been searching for over the past few years. Please keep her in your prayers. She has a muscle disease that is very painful. She has a support group, but we all can always use additional prayers and support.

I would also ask that you continue to keep Penny Parker Mayfield in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her battle with cancer. I know that Penny is very much appreciative of your prayers.

I spoke recently to Kathy Barnes Alexander. She told me that she has recently met a wonderful guy named, Mike Dirmierer. She has been dating him for about a year and they became engaged in a few weeks back. Kathy and her daughter Kathryn and Kathryn’s friend and her friend’s mom recently returned from a few days in Las Vegas...I hope she won a bunch of money! If you have an opportunity – call her and wish her well! And, Kathy, if you did have some success at the gambling tables or slots the GHS Class of 1966 is always looking for gifts of funds to help offset the cost of the upcoming 40th year reunion.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Grapevine High School is celebrating 100 years during this school year. There is an anticipation of several months of activities. I will keep everyone posted via emails and newsletters as I find out more and more information. I am sure that you might want to participate when you can in this milestone for an institution we have all benefited from over the years. There is also some discussion about some sort of small “get together” during Homecoming (October 14th is the Friday Homecoming Game against Fossil Hill)...will let you know if plans develop.

As most everyone knows, due to ship problems, the class cruise to Alaska had to be divided into three groups. All three groups have reported back and as the Grapevine Sun would say – “A good time was had by all”. The group on the first trip (June 3, 2005) were actually a pretty nice group. I say that only because the word is out that the entire crew of the Summit knows of/or experienced firsthand the Stacy Group that departed June 24, 2005. The word among the Alaskan Cruise set is that the Karaoke Bar will never be the same on the Summit.

David and Darlene Florence just returned from their trip on the Summit and subsequent excursion from Anchorage to Fairbanks (an additional week of Moose Looking). They indicated that they had a great time (David would go back, Darlene is not so sure – not into Fish and Moose, it may be that singular/plural thing).

I know that there was some discussion of having another member of our class inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumni. However, we failed to add one for the coming year, but like I always keep telling you....there are more to come. Another reminder – Homecoming is October 14 & 15, 2005. Just a side note, Paula Snelling Wilbanks (former English and French teacher at GHS and former counselor at GHS, and my cousin), will be one of the inductees into the GHS Hall of Fame as a Staff Member of Grapevine High School. Another inductee as a Distinguished Alumni is Keith Grantham. Keith is a former student of mine and his father served many years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Grapevine Public Schools. Keith is now a judge in Austin and it is a surprise to many of us that he ended up on that side of the judicial bench – just kidding – Keith is a fine gentleman and we all knew he would do well – and he has.

Thanks to Sharon Huffman Smith who continues to harass Gayle Shumate in hopes of getting her to join us at an event or at one of the Ole Whiskers evenings. Sharon, keep up the good work, and Ms. Shumate you should be anxious to see us!

The Alaskan Cruise was so successful that Gary Cumbie is working on the possibility of a Hawaii 4-0 Cruise for 2006. Tentative time is June or July 2006. We are looking into the possibility of opening up an opportunity for class members to sign up for a trip to Hawaii – fly into the islands and board a ship that will cruise the islands. This allows you to visit numerous islands and places without having to change hotels and fly from island to island. It is sounding like a great opportunity. We will provide info/news as soon as we are able to work something out on the Hawaii 4-0 excursion. We will need to find out specifics soon and sign up soon....so, stay tuned! If you missed the 2005 Cruise to ALASKA, this is going to be your chance to enjoy the great fun and fellowship with a great bunch of folks! And, if you did go to Alaska in 2005 with the GHS North to Alaska Group...you'll want to join in again.

I have checked on some of recent adopted class members (Alaskan Cruise people who tagged along and were great additions to our groups) – Jim and Toni Rinehart are putting their house up for sale in Colorado soon...and hoping to be moving back to Texas – East Texas when Jim retires from his air traffic controller job in only months! I know that they are excited and we want them to always be prepared to join in when the class gets

together. Also saw Don and Renee Brackeen the weekend of August 20 at the Forestburg Watermelon Festival (Don was a judge of the floats) and Renee did all the flyers and art work for the event....for a town of just over two hundred, there were about 750 people who had lunch in the community center after the parade! Great job on the event Don and Renee! Renee also reported that here parents (who went on the cruise) were also doing well. And, Linda (Bowden) & Jerry Cox joined us at Ole Whiskers in on July 23 and brought Ms. Bowden and Linda's sister Carol to join in. It was great to have them join us! Linda's & Jerry's friends Fred and Martha Raven (down Houston way) are always welcome to join in again too, but Fred will need to provide his own sushi!

Next time you see Darrell Faglie, ask him about his Fox hat he always wears to Forestburg, but don't ask him about wearing jumper cables!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grapevine High School turns 100 years old in 2005-2006.

Homecoming is Friday & Saturday, October 14th and 15th.

Our class turns only 40 (in a manner of speaking) next year. Hope to try to get a date locked in by the end of September and get the word out soon afterward, before the December Newsletter....stay tuned so you can make arrangements to attend!

Ole Whiskers once a month for those who can attend. Except for September (see top paragraph). Emails go out each month to classmates in the area. If you have email and don't get the Ole Whiskers Monthly notices, email me and I'll be sure to add you to the list. If you don't have email...contact a classmate / buddy who does and ask them to keep you posted on those dates and times.

We still have classmates we can not locate....so, if you have a lead on how to contact the following, please email me or send me information soon:

Pat Bates	Jerry Bates	Jill Carlson Williams
Gail Defibaugh	Randy Doty	Dobie (Evelyn) Gill Lindsey
Quentin Hix	Kenneth Hughes	Doris Jean Jones
Betty McQuade	Jackie Morgan	Janice Jordan McElroy
Jim Stockton	Bill Tutt	

In closing....thanks to all for everything you do to keep us together.

GOD BLESS THE GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS of 1966!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver